

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2584

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9921

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, UR, PK

SUBJECT: PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS: PROPOSED APPROACH TO GOP

REF: KABUL 6955

1. WE SHARE EMBASSY KABUL'S INTEREST IN THE IMPLICATIONS FOR PAK-AFGHAN TIES OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GOA/SOVIET AND GOA/LOCAL LEFTIST RELATIONS. WE BELIEVE BEST COURSE TO TAKE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE TO DISCUSS THESE DEVELOPMENTS INFORMALLY WITH GOP AND, DRAWING ON REFTEL AND OTHER RECENT EXCELLENT EMBASSY KABUL MESSAGES, TO SPECULATE WITH PAKS ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE EVENTS IN POSSIBLY HELPING BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENT IN PAK RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN.

2. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO GO BEYOND THIS PLACING OF BEE IN PAK BONNET. ASIDE FROM OUR GENERAL RELUCTANCE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE SPECIFICS OF PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS, WE HAVE SOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH EMBASSY KABUL'S SUGGEST THAT WE SEEK TO STIMULATE GESTURE ON PART OF PAKS THAT THEY RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE SIGNIFICANCE OF RECENT CHANGES IN AFGHANISTAN. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY VERY STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT PAKS WILL INTERPRET OUR APPROACH AS EFFORT ON OUR
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PART TO PERSUADE THEM TO MAKE MOVE CONNECTED WITH FORTHCOMING

SUPREME COURT DECISION IN NAP CASE, WHICH THEY MAY WELL SEE AS ONLY "GESTURE" LIKELY TO HAVE ANY IMPACT ON GOA. GIVEN SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AND EMOTIONAL OVERTONES OF SUCH A GESTURE -- RELEASE OF NAP LEADERS WHATEVER RESULT OF TRIAL IS ONE WHICH MOST READILY COMES TO MIND -- WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BECOME INVOLVED.

3. MORE GENERALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PAKS SEE THE GOA'S ATTACHMENT TO THE PUKHTUNISTAN ISSUE AS A POLITICAL DYNAMIC ESSENTIALLY INDEPENDENT OF AFGHAN-SOVET RELATIONS. WE DOUBT THAT EVEN IF THEY ACCEPT EMBASSY KABUL'S INTERPRETATION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RECENT CHANGES IN AFGHANISTAN THAT THEY WILL GO ON TO CONCLUDE THAT THESE CHANGES COULD SET THE STAGE FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR OWN RELATIONS WITH THE GOA IN THE AREAS OF GREATEST CONCERN TO THEM -- PUKHTUNISTAN AND THE DURAND LINE. WE ALSO BELIEVE THE GOP CONSIDERS DAOUD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH AND DEPENDENCE ON LEFTISTS IN HIS GOVERNMENT AND ON THE USSR AS A FUNCTION OF HIS OWN PERCEPTION OF HIS DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONCERNS AND AS SUCH NOT SIGNIFICANTLY RESPONSIVE TO GESTURES BY GOP. WE ARE DOUBTFUL THEREFORE THAT PAKS BELIEVE THEY CAN DO VERY MUCH TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER GOA INDEPENDENCE FROM THE RUSSIANS.

4. IF THE PAKS SHOULD UNEXPECTEDLY PROVE US WRONG FOLLOWING THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS PROPOSED IN PARA 1 WE WOULD OF COURSE WELCOME THIS. BUT WE DO NOT THINK IT ADVISABLE FOR US TO SUGGEST TO THEM THAT WE ARE PERSUADED THERE IS MUCH THEY CAN ACCOMPLISH BY GESTURES AND SIGNALS OF THEIR OWN IN THE WAKE OF THE CHANGES IN AFGHANISTAN, AND PREFER TO CONFINE OURSELVES TO THE MORE LIMITED APPROACH OUTLINED ABOVE.
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